

S. 1457

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1457, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the rate of tax on distilled spirits to its pre-1985 level.

S. 1568

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. NICKLES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1568, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify certain provisions applicable to real estate investment trusts.

S. 1703

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1703, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit against income tax for expenditures for the maintenance of railroad tracks of Class II and Class III railroads.

S. 1706

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1706, a bill to improve the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, and for other purposes.

S. 1786

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1786, a bill to revise and extend the Community Services Block Grant Act, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, and the Assets for Independence Act.

S. 1888

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1888, a bill to halt Saudi support for institutions that fund, train, incite, encourage, or in any other way aid and abet terrorism, and to secure full Saudi cooperation in the investigation of terrorist incidents.

S. 1948

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1948, a bill to provide that service of the members of the organization known as the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II constituted active military service for purposes of laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

S. 1961

At the request of Mr. HOLLINGS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1961, a bill to provide for the revitalization and enhancement of the American passenger and freight rail transportation system.

S. 1986

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1986, a bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to re-

quire voter verification and improved security for voting systems under title III of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2006

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2006, a bill to extend and expand the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 2003, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 2032. A bill to provide assistance and security for women and children in Afghanistan and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, yesterday was an important and historic day for Afghanistan. President Hamid Karzai signed a new constitution that guarantees the equal rights of all Afghans, including women.

Given the terrible hardship women and girls in Afghanistan faced during the years of war, drought and the draconian policies of the Taliban, this new constitution is an important step forward.

However, yesterday's victory will be sort-lived if the constitution is not implemented and women continue to suffer from discrimination and violence, and are denied access to health care, education and job training.

The biggest challenge facing women today is a lack of basic security. Human Rights Watch reported earlier this month that:

women and girls bear some of the worst effects of Afghanistan's insecurity. Conditions are generally better than under the Taliban, but women and girls continue to face severe governmental and social discrimination. Those who organize protests or criticize local rulers face threats and violence. Soldiers and police routinely harass women and girls, even in Kabul city. Many women and girls are afraid to remove the burqa. Because soldiers are targeting women and girls, many are staying indoors, especially in rural areas, making it impossible for them to attend school, go to work, or actively participate in the country's reconstruction.

Today, I am introducing legislation that will ensure that women and children are able to thrive in a post-Taliban Afghanistan.

This legislation authorizes \$300 million each year to provide assistance to Afghan women and children with four specific goals. First, the bill seeks to enhance the political and human rights of women by providing assistance to help them exercise property, inheritance and voting rights and to enforce provisions in the new constitution that ensure equal rights for women.

Second, the bill provides funding for health care, including assistance to reduce maternal and infant mortality and to train midwives, nurses and traditional birth attendants.

Third, funding is authorized to be used for education and training, including expanding schools for women and

girls, technical and vocational training and literacy programs.

Finally, the bill addresses the issue of security by providing programs to prevent the trafficking of women and girls, support the return of refugees, and provide general security to prevent violent attacks against schools. The bill also calls for an expansion of international peacekeeping forces throughout the country.

We have heard many times that failure is not an option in Afghanistan. Passage of this legislation will go a long way to ensure the success of a democratic and peaceful nation.

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 2033. A bill to designate the Federal building located at Fifth and Richardson Avenues in Roswell, New Mexico, as the "Joe Skeen Federal Building"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a bill to rename the Federal building in Roswell, NM, after my dear friend, Representative Joe Skeen. On December 7, 2003, Joe lost his valiant battle with Parkinson's Disease. He will be deeply missed.

I first met Joe more than 40 years ago when I was fresh out of law school and Joe was a rising star within the New Mexico Republican party. From that moment, I knew that Joe was destined for great things. To the great benefit of the people of the State of New Mexico and the Nation, Joe chose to dedicate his life to public service.

For those of us who knew Joe, it came as no surprise when he became only the third person in our Nation's history to win a U.S. House seat as a write-in candidate in 1980. During his 22 year tenure as New Mexico's representative for the 2nd Congressional District, Joe was a powerful voice for the people of his district and its rural lifestyle. For instance, he was a staunch defender of New Mexico's farming and ranching interests.

Many have described Joe as one of the most powerful members of Congress that New Mexico ever sent to Washington, DC. But Joe never forgot who he was and where he was from. He was part and parcel of this land and its people. Joe truly represented the people of the 2nd Congressional District, both politically and in spirit.

Joe sought committee assignments that would most benefit the largely rural district that he represented. During his time in the U.S. Congress, Joe served 17 years on the House Appropriations Committee, serving as Chairman of both the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee and the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee.

In 2002 Joe retired from Congress. After 11 terms in Congress, Joe decided to return to his ranch, a place that he described as being "at the center of my upbringing and which shaped my character and principles in life." I feel truly blessed to have had the honor to

serve with Joe for those 22 years. I know Washington will go on without Joe, but it will not be nearly as good a place.

For all the good that Joe accomplished during his 22 years as a Congressman, I know he could not have done it alone. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Mary, his wife of 57 years. She and the Skeen children deserve great credit for making his life so remarkable.

Today I introduce legislation that would designate the Federal Building in Roswell, NM, the "Joe Skeen Federal Building." I would like to thank my distinguished colleague Senator JEFF BINGAMAN for co-sponsoring this legislation. Additionally, Representatives WILSON, PEARCE and UDALL will introduce shortly a companion bill honoring Joe for his service to his State and Nation.

Joe was born in Roswell, NM, represented the people of the Second Congressional District for 22 years and spent his final days in Roswell, NM. It is fitting that the Roswell Federal Building bear his name. One of Joe's first actions after he took office in 1981 was to introduce legislation to name the Federal Building in Las Cruces after the man he replaced, the late Congressman Harold Runnels. I believe it's appropriate, 22 years later, to return the favor.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2033

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The Federal building located at Fifth and Richardson Avenues in Roswell, New Mexico, shall be known and designated as the "Joe Skeen Federal Building".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the Joe Skeen Federal Building.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2005.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 292—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING FEBRUARY 2, 2004, AS "NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK"

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. DODD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 292

Whereas the American School Counselor Association has declared the week beginning February 2, 2004, as "National School Counseling Week";

Whereas the Senate has recognized the importance of school counseling through the inclusion of elementary and secondary school counseling programs in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965;

Whereas school counselors have long advocated that the American education system must leave no child behind and must provide opportunities for every student;

Whereas personal and social growth results in increased academic achievement;

Whereas school counselors help develop well-rounded students by guiding them through their academic, personal, social, and career development;

Whereas school counselors were instrumental in helping students, teachers, and parents deal with the trauma of terrorism inflicted on the United States on September 11, 2001, and its aftermath;

Whereas students face myriad challenges every day, including peer pressure, depression, and school violence;

Whereas school counselors are usually the only professionals in a school building that are trained in both education and mental health;

Whereas the roles and responsibilities of school counselors are often misunderstood, and the school counselor position is often among the first to be eliminated in order to meet budgetary constraints;

Whereas the national average ratio of students to school counselors of 485 to 1 is more than double the 250 to 1 ratio recommended by the American School Counselor Association, the American Counseling Association, the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, and other organizations; and

Whereas the celebration of "National School Counseling Week" would increase awareness of the important and necessary role school counselors play in the lives of the Nation's students: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK.

(a) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the President should designate the week beginning February 2, 2004, as "National School Counseling Week".

(b) PROCLAMATION.—The Senate requests the President to issue a proclamation—

(1) designating the week beginning February 2, 2004, as "National School Counseling Week"; and

(2) calling on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the role school counselors perform within the school and the community at large to prepare students for fulfilling lives as contributing members of society.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today I am pleased to submit a resolution designating the week of February 2, 2004, as "National School Counseling Week," on behalf of my colleagues Senator BIDEN, Senator DORGAN, Senator JOHNSON and Senator DODD. This resolution would honor and celebrate the important work of school counselors, which the Senate has recognized since 1965 through the inclusion of school counseling in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Across the country, there are approximately 95,000 school counselors, including 2,100 in Washington State. School counselors are critical components of a successful school and contribute significantly to the growth and

success of students. In fact, school counselors were instrumental in helping students, teachers, and parents deal with the trauma of terrorism on September 11, 2001, and its aftermath. However, despite their important service, counselors are expected to serve, on average 485 students each, and are overwhelmed. The American School Counseling Association, the American Medical Association, and the American Psychological Association recommend the ratio of students to school counselors be 250 students to 1 school counselor.

I want to share just a few examples of how school counselors throughout America are helping students.

In a middle school in southern California, school counselors realized that 257 students were in danger of not passing onto the next grade. They discovered that only 15 percent of the students understood the promotion and retention requirements. The school counselors presented a series of individual and small group lessons on promotion and retention criteria. After the lessons, 100 percent of the students understood the requirements. As a result, 72 of the 257 students, about 28 percent, avoided retention that year.

In a high school in Racine, WI, a math teacher realized that 100 of his students failed algebra in the first quarter of the year. He asked a school counselor for help. Together, they discovered some of the reasons why students were failing. They initiated several programs, such as peer tutoring and homework assistance. As a result, 93 of the 100 students passed algebra by the end of the year and were able to move on to the next level of math.

A school district in Kentucky realized that the retention rate among ninth grade students was unacceptably high. School counselors, teachers and administrators worked together to develop and implement strategies targeted at helping ninth graders move to 10th grade. As a result, retention rates improved in 16 of the 17 high schools in the county in just one year. One school saw the retention rate improve more than 25 percent.

This resolution is merely the beginning of what we need to be doing to support school counselors. We need to reduce the ratio of students to counselors to, at the most, 250 to 1. We need to help schools maintain their funding so that school counselors are not cut from school budgets. And we need to support our school counselors so that they can continue to be integral in the fabric of our schools and help our students achieve success in high school and beyond.

School counselors design and implement comprehensive developmental school counseling programs that are integral to the success of every student. They help students improve academic achievement, develop personally and socially and prepare for successful careers that will enable them to be contributing members of society. National School Counseling Week focuses